FROM THE ARMY ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE

Paving The Path To A Successful Future

During my tenure, I have often said that my job is to make sure that soldiers have the equipment and supplies they need to get to the fight quickly, win decisively, and come back alive. It is an awesome responsibility that I share with LTG Paul J. Kern and LTG Peter M. Cuviello, my military deputies. We are privileged to work with an outstanding, results-oriented team comprising program executive officers; program, product, and project managers; and some of the best and brightest military and civilian personnel in government today. Our team is hard working and very busy. With the Army's transformation strategy moving forward along three major paths—the legacy force, the interim force, and the objective force—the Army's acquisition, logistics, and technology team has a critically important role in each path, and is meeting every challenge with success. We have put programs in place to recapitalize the legacy force, acquire an Interim Armored Vehicle (IAV) for the interim force, and identify potential technologies for the Future Combat Systems, the centerpiece of the objective force.

This issue of *Army AL&T* is devoted to recapitalization. It is the first step in the Army's transformation process. It is also a pivotal one. If we do not update and improve our currently fielded weapons, these aging systems will mean a future of escalating operating and support costs and declining readiness rates. The articles in this issue will provide a better understanding of the importance of recapitalization. Even though we will be taking fielded systems away from our soldiers for a period of time, they will be returned to them better than new.

The second step in the transformation process will lead us to the interim force. Here, too, we are making significant progress. This past November, LTG Kern and I were pleased to brief members of the media on the Army's award of the IAV contract. This marked a major milestone in the Army's transformation process and a victory for acquisition and logistics reform. In the past, a source selection of this magnitude took up to 3 years. The IAV award took just over 1 year, and the clear winners are America's soldiers because this family of vehicles will provide them with world-class, off-the-shelf equipment.

Equipping the Army's six interim brigade combat teams with IAVs will accomplish two goals. First, it will increase the Army's ability to deploy forces rapidly worldwide. IAVs are C-130 transportable, which will enable our troops to get to the fight fast and operate with a much smaller logistics footprint. Second, the IAV's speed, mobility, and armor protection will increase lethality and enhance soldier survivability.

The IAV will be manufactured in two major variants—the Infantry Carrier Vehicle and the Mobile Gun System. Eight different configurations of the Infantry Carrier will be used as reconnaissance vehicles; mortar carriers; command vehicles; antitank guided missile vehicles; fire support vehicles; engineer support vehicles; medical evacuation vehicles; and nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicles. The Mobile Gun System is equipped with a 105mm cannon, the same gun tube as the one on the original M1 Abrams tank.

The IAV has all-around armor protection that will withstand rounds from a 50-caliber gun and protect the crewmen against 152mm artillery airbursts. There is additional protection in its speed. IAV has a top speed of 60 mph and a convoy speed of about 40 mph. To increase mobility, the tires can be inflated or deflated from inside the vehicle to make it highly effective on different surfaces ranging from mud to hard-road surfaces to sand. There is a built-in fire suppression system and a self-recovery winch in case the vehicle becomes stuck in muddy or slippery terrain.

Additionally, the IAV will significantly reduce the Army's logistics footprint. Eighty-five percent of the parts are common among the vehicles, including an engine that is already in the Army inventory (the same one found in the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles). The IAV will also exceed reliability requirements for all variants and configurations, with greater than 1,000 mean miles between critical mission failures. Both commonality and reliability will relieve the logistics burden.

IAV also has superior fuel efficiency, which will further reduce the logistics burden. What will reduced fuel requirements mean to the overall force? Think, for a moment, about what it takes to support the force. You need fuel. You need trucks to deliver the fuel. You need mechanics and drivers for those trucks. You need cooks and medics for the mechanics and drivers. Now what happens if you significantly reduce the fuel requirement? Less fuel means fewer fuel trucks; fewer fuel trucks mean fewer drivers and mechanics; fewer drivers and mechanics mean fewer cooks and medics; fewer cooks and medics mean fewer supply trucks, and the process continues.

With the IAV, the big winner is the American soldier. We will provide him with world-class equipment to get to the fight fast, win decisively, and come back alive. With IAV and a new operational and organizational structure, the interim force will begin to take on some objective force characteristics—those that are available within the constraints of current technology. This will help pave the way for the technologically advanced, highly mobile, and flexible Future Combat Systems, the third step in the Army's transformation process. We are making great progress.

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